Please see **2 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: 1) Update on the Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements for English Language Arts and Mathematics and 2) Opportunity to be Involved in the Dynamic Learning Maps External Item Review Panels.

1) Update on the Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements for English Language Arts and Mathematics

The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Essential Elements are specific statements of knowledge and skills linked to the grade-level expectations identified in the Common Core State Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements build a bridge from the Mathematics and English Language Arts Common Core State Standards to create a set of appropriate academic expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The initial draft of the Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements (then called the Common Core Essential Elements) was released in the spring of 2012.

This final round of revisions resulted in a number of changes to the Essential Elements. These changes can be organized into four broad categories: ensuring better alignment across grade levels, increasing language specificity, improving common core alignment, and defining clearer learning expectations (rather than instructional tasks). For more explanation about the revisions and a complete set of the DLM Essential Elements in both vertical and horizontal layout, please visit www.michigan.gov/mi-access and click on Dynamic Learning Maps. (Please note the Mathematics DLM Essential Elements are not yet available in the horizontal format and will be posted as soon as they become available.)

Professional Development Modules for Dynamic Learning Maps

A series of self-directed learning modules are currently available for use by those who may be instructing and working with students who may take DLM.

Who are Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities
Description: This self-directed module focuses on the characteristics that distinguish students with significant cognitive disabilities who take an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards from other students with disabilities.

Module 1: Common Core Overview
Description: This self-directed module provides an introduction to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics for teachers who work with students with significant cognitive disabilities who will complete the alternate assessment.

Module 2: Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements
Description: This self-directed module provides an introduction to the Essential Elements that were developed by the Dynamic Learning Maps Consortium to provide links between the Common Core State Standards and grade specific expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Module 3: Universal Design for Learning
Description: This self-directed module provides an introduction to Universal Design for Learning as it relates to the Common Core State Standards and students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Module 4: Principles of Instruction in English Language Arts

Description: This self-directed module provides an overview of principles of instruction in English Language Arts in the Common Core and relates them specifically to students with significant cognitive disabilities who will complete the alternate assessment.

Module 5: Standards of Mathematics Practice

Description: This self-directed module provides an on overview of principles of instruction in Mathematics in the Common Core and relates them specifically to students with significant cognitive disabilities who will complete the alternate assessment.

Professional Development Materials

The same information presented in the self-service modules is also available for large group professional development training. If you would like a copy of the videos, video transcripts, PowerPoint Presentations, and Pre- and Post-test assessment materials, please go to www.michigan.gov/mi-access and click on Dynamic Learning Maps.

Claims and Conceptual Areas

DLM has created three professional videos explaining the Claims and Conceptual Areas: Claim and Conceptual Areas Overview, ELA Claims and Conceptual Areas, and Mathematics Claims and Conceptual Areas. These materials are available at www.michigan.gov/mi-access and click on Dynamic Learning Maps.

2) Opportunity to be Involved in the Dynamic Learning Maps External Item Review Panels

The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternate assessment consortium is seeking educators from its partner states to serve as panelists on the DLM external item review panels. Panelists will review testlet items (sets of 3-5 items that are connected to common stimuli) for the new Dynamic Learning Maps alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Panelists will review items during the 2013-2014 academic year. This work will not require travel as it is expected that the reviews will be conducted virtually. Panelists will preview items on their own and complete the review survey online using a personal computer. All external reviewers must successfully complete an online training course and sign a security agreement.

If you are interested in this opportunity to ensure that the Dynamic Learning Maps assessment items are appropriate for Michigan students, please download the "*External Review Panels*" document that explains the process in greater detail. This document may be accessed at www.michigan.gov/mi-access and click on Dynamic Learning Maps. Interested reviewers are requested to complete the survey by **Monday, September 30, 2013**. The survey link can be found in the "*External Review Panels*" document.

If you have questions, feel free to contact either Dr. Joanne Winkelman at winkelmanj@michigan.gov or Dr. Adam Wyse at wysea@michigan.gov